

EAST PROVIDENCE SCHOOL DEPARTMENT

East Providence City Hall

145 Taunton Avenue

East Providence, Rhode Island 02914

May 17, 2010

Open Session

Mr. Carcieri called the meeting to order at 6:00PM. School Committee members present: Luisa Abatecola, Shannon Barbosa, Robert Faria, Steven Santos, Anthony Carcieri. Also present: Dr. Mario F. Cirillo, Jr., Superintendent of Schools, Lonnie Barham, Chief Operating Officer, Daniel Kinder, Esq.

A motion was made by Mr. Santos that the Committee convene in Executive Session for purposes of discussing: Collective Bargaining: R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-46-5(a) (2): Teachers, Principals and Litigation: R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-46-5(a)(2): EPSC v. EPEA; EPSC v. Rocha; EPSC v. First Student; EPEA v. EPSC; Lopes v. City/EPSC; Moura & RLCLU v. EPSC

Mr. Carcieri called the Public Session to order at 7:30PM. A motion was made by Mrs. Abatecola to seal the minutes of the executive session, seconded by Mrs. Barbosa. Roll call vote: Mrs. Abatecola, aye; Mrs. Barbosa, aye; Mr. Faria, aye; Mr. Santos, aye; Mr. Carcieri,

aye.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and a Moment of Silence was observed in memory of former Superintendent, Myron Francis, who recently passed away.

Report Executive Session Votes - None

Student/Teacher Recognition – A student at East Providence, Nicholas Boyce, was recognized as the recipient of the Rising Star Scholarship from the RI School Superintendent’s Association, which is awarded for having demonstrated determination, effort and resiliency to overcome some obstacle during their four years to achieving a high school diploma. Nicholas received a certificate of recognition and a Coin of Excellence from the School Committee.

Student Liaison Report – Erin Butler presented a report on high school activities and events.

Public Comment I

Kathy Blackmar, commented about increasing class sizes and how that would relate to bringing test scores up; she does not know how we can put 28 seats in a classroom and 35-40 kids in a gym class. Mrs. Blackmar asked that the School Committee consider this when making a decision.

Mr. Carcieri explained that the School Committee is presently involved in negotiations with the EPEA (teachers’ union) which are

intense and moving forward and this issue and others are being addressed in discussions at negotiations sessions. Mr. Carcieri said there is no benefit educationally; no one is looking for larger class sizes, but it is all about the money; we are trying to get the best education we can afford; cuts come in on a weekly basis from the city and the state and the School Department has to keep cutting it from somewhere. Mr. Carcieri said negotiations will continue.

Amy Moran, a teacher at Martin Middle School and resident of East Providence commented on recent fundraising events at the school; she was proud of their accomplishments of the students.

Reports

Subcommittee Reports – Mr. Faria commented that the policy subcommittee has not met due to time constraints with on-going negotiations sessions; but several policies are on the agenda for discussion.

Superintendent's Report – A Power Point presentation by Dr. Cirillo provided information regarding the Race to the Top Round II Application Update, Grant Opportunities, and Life Insurance Plan Changes.

Mrs. Abatecola asked if grant funds would provide resources needed to take care of locking entrances to the front of the schools and if retirees will still get insurance with pre-existing conditions? Mr. Barham advised that the grants will provide funds to update and

secure school entrances and that retirees can continue to buy extra life but will pay more.

Mrs. Barbosa commented that the Race to the Top is good for children and she hoped that the union signs on to it

School Calendar 2010-11 – A motion was made by Mr. Faria to approve the calendar, seconded by Mr. Santos. Roll call vote: Mrs. Abatecola, aye; Mrs. Barbosa, aye; Mr. Faria, aye; Mr. Santos, aye; Mr. Carcieri, aye.

Personnel Report on Retirements/Resignations/Leaves of Absence – Mrs. Patricia Whalen presented the personnel items:

RETIREMENTS

Manual Aguiar Night Custodian-Kent Heights

Effective July 9, 2010

Michael McGuinn

RESIGNATIONS

Arlene Garrison Director of Pupil Personnel Services

Effective 4/30/2010

Melissa Aniello Speech Language Pathologist-Meadowcrest

Following a (1) year leave

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Rebecca Gendron Robotics Teacher-RMS

2010-2011 School Year

MILITARY LEAVE

Kevin Monagle Math Teacher/Department Head-EPHS

2010-2011 School Year

PARENTAL LEAVE

Emily Joost School Nurse/Teacher-EPHS

Effective 05/13/2010-Remainder School Year

RETURN FROM PARENTAL LEAVE

**Jodie Audet Special Education Teacher-Martin Middle Effective
June 1, 2010**

TERMINATION DURING PROBATIONARY PERIOD

Jesse Bartlett Custodian-EPHS - Effective 05/10/2010

Financial Report - Mr. Barham recommended tabling the report until the June meeting for two reasons: The RIDE estimate of how much we are being cut this fiscal year changes every few days; from an initial estimate of about \$1 million to as much as \$2.5 million and until RIDE and the School Department gets better fidelity on what the General Assembly ends up approving for cuts between now and June 8th, the General Assembly should give far more insight or actual

legislation that will help us determine our budget for the rest of the year. Also contract negotiations are progressing and as of this meeting, we just don't know for sure what effect the outcome will have on this fiscal year. The bottom line is that any report he provided would be no better than written in sand. He further explained that to date revenues are at 54.91% and expenditures at 52.27% as we continue to cut more expenses.

Consent Agenda

Approval of Minutes

3/8/10 – Tabled; A motion was made by Mr. Faria to approve the minutes of the April 12, 2010 and April 19, 2010 School Committee meetings, seconded by Mrs. Abatecola. Vote 5-0.

Personnel Appointments -

Mrs. Patti Whalen presented the Personnel Report on Appointments:

APPOINTMENTS

Shane Messier Assistant Football Coach-EPHS

Kathy Dias Head Girl's Tennis Coach-EPHS

**Robert Hanlon Girl's Track Coach-RMS
(1 year only)**

Motion: Mr. Santos/Second: Mr. Faria. Vote 5-0.

Recalls - None

Requisitions – Bill Lists

Warrant #000985 4/20/10 \$ 27,000.00

Warrant#000986 5/7/10 \$ 25,225.00

Warrant#000987 5/11/10 \$ 481,467.04

Warrant#000988 5/17/10 \$2,233,595.90

Motion: Mr. Faria/Second: Mrs. Barbosa. Vote 5-0.

Action Items

ELL Instructional Program Staffing Policy (Second Passage) and Anti-Bullying – Amended Policy (Second Passage) – Motion by Mrs. Barbosa, seconded by Mr. Faria for discussion; he felt it was the responsibility of the community to act on something if you think there is a problem and that everyone has the responsibility to stand up on this; it is our responsibility not to let it happen here. Mr. Faria asked the Superintendent what the process is when bullying occurs, what recourse and where can the person go for help. The policy will be in the handbooks at every school; incidents should be reported to teachers, administrator, as spelled out in the procedure.

Mr. Barbosa said the policy indicated that the Superintendent was responsible for organizing training programs; she would like a

specified amount of time on that such as annually. Dr. Cirillo will incorporate that in the policy. Mrs. Abatecola asked what the penalty would be for the person creating the bullying. The Superintendent advised that the sanctions are in the policy and all are handled case-by-case basis.

Mr. Faria thought the language needs to be standard for all schools and some teeth in the policy in the handbook). Mr. Santos asked if this is reflective of RI policies. Dr. Cirillo felt it was very comprehensive and includes cyber bullying. Roll call vote: Mrs. Abatecola, aye; Mrs. Barbosa, aye; Mr. Faria, aye; Mr. Santos, aye; Mr. Carcieri, aye.

New Business

Racial Harassment Policy - Dr. Cirillo advised that the policy was tabled at a prior meeting, reviewed by legal w and was now presented for first passage. Mrs. Barbosa asked for more accountability regarding training.

Policy - Placement, Promotion and Retention – Dr. Cirillo advised that the policy was amended to be more in line with current graduation requirements and high school portfolios and was being presented for first passage. Ms. Janet Sheehan, Principal of East Providence High School explained that the purpose of the change was a recommendation that student portfolio assessments be in a form of assessment other than NECAP. The policy language regarding

proficiency demonstration was revised to: “EPHS requires mastery of 31 Portfolio Skills necessary to advance towards graduation. Portfolio skills are aligned to the common Core Standards, EPHS Student Learning Expectations and the RI Applied Learning Standards. The skills fall under the reading, writing and problem solving. Students in grades (9-11) complete portfolio assessments addressing these skills. Annually fourteen entries must be submitted to the student portfolio.”

Public Comment II - None

Announcements – Mr. Carcieri advised that negotiations with teachers’ union are moving along and all are hopeful for a resolution. Mr. Faria requested that everyone read and support legislation regarding a funding formula for education.

A motion was made by Mrs. Abatecola to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Faria. Vote 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia A. Iannelli, Administrative Assistant

Shannon Barbosa, Clerk of the Committee